

REMARKS

Claims 42-84 are pending in this divisional application. In the Office Action dated December 5, 2002, the Examiner rejected claims 52-55 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,458,518 to Lee ("Lee") in view of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,663,608 and 5,529,524 to Jones ("Jones '608" and "Jones '524", respectively) and U.S. Patent No. 4,016,017 to Aboaf *et al.* ("Aboaf"). The Examiner rejected claims 42-44, 46, 49, 50, 56, 60, 62-78, and 80-84 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Lee in view of Jones as above applied with respect to claim 52 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,569,058 to Gnade *et al.* Claims 47, 48, 51, 57, 58, and 61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Lee, Jones '524, Gnade *et al.* and Aboaf *et al.* as applied to claims 42 and 56 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,663,608 to Jones *et al.* Applicants disagree with these grounds of rejection and wish to clarify various distinctions of Applicants' invention over the cited art. Reconsideration is therefore requested in light of the present amendment and following remarks.


The Examiner has indicated that claims 45 and 79 are objected to in the present application. The Examiner is thanked for his careful review of the present application and the prior art.

In order to expedite the issuance of claims in the present case, applicants have amended claims 42 and 56 in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. It is understood, however, that applicants are amending claims 42 and 56 only to expedite the issuance of allowable subject matter, and do not agree with the Examiner's rejections based on the prior art. Further, applicants reserve the right to introduce the present claims in any divisional, continuation or continuation-in-part application.

Claim 42 is amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 45. Claim 42 is therefore in allowable form. Claims depending from amended claim 42 are also now in allowable form based on the allowable form of the base claim and further in view of the additional limitations present in the dependent claims.

Claim 56 is amended to include the limitations in dependent claim 79. Claim 56 is therefore also allowable over the cited prior art. Claims depending from amended claim 56 are also in allowable form based upon the allowability of the base claim and further in view of the additional limitations present in the dependent claims.

Claims 45, 52-55, 71-73, 75 and 79 are cancelled.



Claim 80 is amended in order to place claim 80 in proper dependent form.

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CONCLUSION

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable.  
Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

Postcard

Fee Transmittal Sheet

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